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November 19, 2003

Diane R. Karp, Ph.D., Director
Santa Fe Art Institute
1600 St. Michaels Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Ms. Karp,

Thank you for inquiring about the solicitation for the Request for Proposal (RFP) entitled "On-the-Ground Surface Water Quality Improvement Projects Addressing Nonpoint Source Pollution Total Maximum Daily Loads for New Mexico's Upper Rio Grande, Rio Grande-Parajito Plateau, Rio Chama, Cimarron, Jemez, Rio Grande-Santa Fe, Upper Gila, Upper Gila-Mangas, and San Francisco Watersheds."

In a letter dated November 14, 2003, you requested input of the three items below (SWQB responses are in *italic*):

1. The reach described is below the Santa Fe Municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant. Our intent is to install treatments for sediment transport that are above the listed reach, but that will have the desired impact in the listed reach. Is this acceptable?

We will evaluate proposals on whether the applicant's on-the-ground implementation of TMDLs will directly make a positive impact on the listed reaches so that the reaches will eventually be de-listed from the Clean Water Act section 303(d) list of impaired waters. This is true even if the work being done is not exactly on the reach specified in the RFP.

2. Our organization will list a broad array of stakeholders that will sign on to our project. We are incorporated as The Santa Fe Art Institute. Does this qualify as section 2.3.1 of your RFP?

Section 2.3.1 of the above mentioned RFP is part of a list of requirements necessary to be eligible for funding. Section 2.3.1 states that, "The proposal will be implemented by an established watershed group that has broad stakeholder participation and a primary goal of improving water quality within the watershed, focusing on impaired stream reaches for which a TMDL has been written."

We considered an established watershed group to be a group of people who have a stake in the watershed and who wish to rehabilitate a stream reach(s), as specified by the above mentioned RFP, to its designated use, documented in the New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters. We encourage all organizations or groups that wish to work in one certain watershed to work together. At this moment, the Santa Fe Watershed Association is a watershed group that we consider established for the Rio Grande-Santa Fe watershed, and encourage participation by that group and with other groups to implement TMDLs .

3. Our organization did not write the WRAS for the Santa Fe Watershed. If our proposal is consistent with the existing WRAS, is this acceptable for condition 2.3.4?

Section 2.3.4, also a requirement to be eligible for funding states that, “A watershed restoration action strategy (WRAS), a.k.a. watershed implementation or management plan, has been developed that incorporates a holistic plan of action for the watershed and a prioritization of impaired stream reaches for which TMDLs have been written or data and assessments are complete.”

A WRAS has been developed for the Santa Fe watershed and therefore is ready for on-the-ground implementation of TMDLs. We intend for projects along with WRAS to be within the same scope of addressing TMDLs. We also encourage applicants to work with the organization that developed the WRAS. If your proposal is consistent with the existing WRAS, it does meet this eligible requirement.

I hope I have answered your questions. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at david_hogge@nmenv.state.nm.us or by phone at 505-827-2981.

Sincerely,

David W. Hogge
Program Manager
Watershed Protection Section